

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claims 1-39 (canceled).

Claim 40 (currently amended): The actuator as claimed in claim ~~[[39]]~~ 42, wherein said movable arms have at their top end sections slider fixing sections to be fixed to side surfaces of said head slider, respectively.

Claim 41 (previously presented): The actuator as claimed in claim 40, wherein said actuator has a shape so that there exists air gaps between said movable arms and side surfaces of said header slider except for said slider fixing sections, respectively.

Claim 42 (currently amended): ~~[[The]]~~ A precise positioning actuator as claimed in claim 39 to be fixed with a head slider with at least one head element and with a support, for precisely positioning said at least one head element, comprising:

a pair of movable arms capable of displacing in response to a drive signal applied to said actuator, for catching said head slider in a space between said movable arms; and

a base fixed to said support, said movable arms extending from said base,
inner corners at coupling sections of said base and said movable arms having an obtuse
angle plane shape or a smooth plane shape,
wherein said base is made of an elastic sintered ceramic.

Claim 43 (previously presented): The actuator as claimed in claim 42, wherein said elastic sintered ceramic is ZrO_2 .

Claim 44 (currently amended): ~~[[The]]~~ A precise positioning actuator as claimed in
claim 39 to be fixed with a head slider with at least one head element and with a support, for
precisely positioning said at least one head element, comprising:

a pair of movable arms capable of displacing in response to a drive signal applied to said
actuator, for catching said head slider in a space between said movable arms; and

a base fixed to said support, said movable arms extending from said base,
inner corners at coupling sections of said base and said movable arms having an obtuse
angle plane shape or a smooth plane shape,

wherein each of said movable arms comprises an arm member made of an elastic sintered ceramic, and a piezoelectric element formed on a side surface of said arm member.

Claim 45 (previously presented): The actuator as claimed in claim 44, wherein said elastic sintered ceramic is ZrO_2 .

Claim 46 (currently amended): The actuator as claimed in claim ~~[[39]]~~ 42, wherein said movable arms are constituted so that said head slider is linearly and laterally oscillated in response to the drive signal.

Claim 47 (currently amended): The actuator as claimed in claim ~~[[39]]~~ 42, wherein said actuator has an approximately U-plane shape.

Claim 48 (currently amended): The actuator as claimed in claim ~~[[39]]~~, wherein said actuator has a thickness equal to or less than a thickness of a head slider to be caught.

Claim 49 (currently amended): ~~[[the]]~~ A precise positioning actuator as claimed in claim 39 to be fixed with a head slider with at least one head element and with a support, for precisely positioning said at least one head element, comprising:

a pair of movable arms capable of displacing in response to a drive signal applied to said actuator, for catching said head slider in a space between said movable arms; and
a base fixed to said support, said movable arms extending from said base,

inner corners at coupling sections of said base and said movable arms having an obtuse angle plane shape or a smooth plane shape,

wherein a spacing between said pair of movable arms is determined to a value slightly less than a width of said head slider to be caught.

Claim 50 (currently amended): The actuator as claimed in claim [[39]] 42, wherein said at least one head element is at least one thin-film magnetic head element.

Claim 51 (canceled).

Claim 52 (currently amended): The head gimbal assembly as claimed in claim [[51]] 54, wherein said movable arms have at their top end sections slider fixing sections fixed to side surfaces of said head slider, respectively.

Claim 53 (currently amended): The head gimbal assembly as claimed in claim [[51]] 54, wherein said actuator has a shape so that there exists air gaps between said movable arms and side surfaces of said head slider except for said slider fixing sections, respectively.

Claim 54 (currently amended): [[The]] A head gimbal assembly as claimed in claim 51 including a head slider with at least one head element, a support and a precise positioning

actuator fixed with said head slider and with said support for precisely positioning said at least one head element, said actuator comprising a pair of movable arms capable of displacing in response to a drive signal applied thereto and a base fixed to said support, said movable arms extending from said base, said head slider being caught in a space between said movable arms, inner corners at coupling sections of said base and said movable arms having an obtuse angle plane shape or a smooth plane shape,

wherein said base is made of an elastic sintered ceramic.

Claim 55 (previously presented): The head gimbal assembly as claimed in claim 54, wherein said elastic sintered ceramic is ZrO_2 .

Claim 56 (currently amended): ~~[[The]]~~ A head gimbal assembly as claimed in claim 51 including a head slider with at least one head element, a support and a precise positioning actuator fixed with said head slider and with said support for precisely positioning said at least one head element, said actuator comprising a pair of movable arms capable of displacing in response to a drive signal applied thereto and a base fixed to said support, said movable arms extending from said base, said head slider being caught in a space between said movable arms, inner corners at coupling sections of said base and said movable arms having an obtuse angle plane shape or a smooth plane shape,

wherein each of said movable arms comprises an arm member made of an elastic sintered ceramic, and a piezoelectric element formed on a side surface of said arm member.

Claim 57 (previously presented): The head gimbal assembly as claimed in claim 56, wherein said elastic sintered ceramic is ZrO_2 .

Claim 58 (currently amended): The head gimbal assembly as claimed in claim ~~[[51]]~~ 54, wherein said movable arms are constituted so that said head slider is linearly and laterally oscillated in response to the drive signal.

Claim 59 (currently amended): The head gimbal assembly as claimed in claim ~~[[51]]~~ 54, wherein said actuator has an approximately U-plane shape.

Claim 60 (currently amended): The head gimbal assembly as claimed in claim ~~[[51]]~~ 54, wherein said actuator has a thickness equal to or less than a thickness of said head slider.

Claim 61 (currently amended): ~~[[The]]~~ A head gimbal assembly as claimed in claim 51 including a head slider with at least one head element, a support and a precise positioning actuator fixed with said head slider and with said support for precisely positioning said at least one head element, said actuator comprising a pair of movable arms capable of displacing in

response to a drive signal applied thereto and a base fixed to said support, said movable arms extending from said base, said head slider being caught in a space between said movable arms, inner corners at coupling sections of said base and said movable arms having an obtuse angle plane shape or a smooth plane shape,

wherein a spacing between said pair of movable arms is determined to a value slightly less than a width of said head slider.

Claim 62 (currently amended): The head gimbal assembly as claimed in claim [[51]] 54, wherein said at least one head element is at least one thin-film magnetic head element.

Claim 63 (currently amended): The head gimbal assembly as claimed in claim [[51]] 54, wherein said movable arms of said actuator and said head slider are fixed with an adhesive.

Claim 64 (currently amended): The head gimbal assembly as claimed in claim [[51]] 54, wherein said actuator and said support are fixed with an adhesive and a solder.